GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4916
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2000
SHIFT IN FOREIGN POLICY
VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has made a significant shift in its foreign policy in regard to its relations with Israel;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this has put us into disadvantage in terms of our relationship with Islamic countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether OIC had extended an invitation to Taliban for its summit held in Doha recently;

(f) if so, the details thereof;
(g) whether the Islamic countries are appreciative of India`s stand on West Asian problem;
(h) if so, the details thereof; and
(i) if not, the reasons thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a), (b), (c) & (d) Policy towards Israel continues to be dictated by our national interests. The main thrust of our policy is to enhance cooperation with Israel in diverse areas like agriculture, tourism, culture, science and technology, trade, investment and communications. At the same time, India continues to pursue its multi-faceted relationship with the Islamic countries and to consolidate and diversify mutually beneficial cooperation.

(e) & (f) No, Sir.

(g), (h) & (i) The countries in the Arab and Islamic world recognise and appreciate India`s consistent and unwavering support to the Palestinian cause.